



Finance

April 18, 2020

Shingo Fujii-san, Mayor
City Hall
Toride-shi, Ibaraki, Japan

Dear Mayor Fujii-san:

Thank you for your kind and thoughtfully written note. I, too, hope you are safe and well. We are touched that our Pacific Ocean neighbors and friends are worried for us as we are worried for all of you. We hope that the hospital is able to contain the nosocomial infection and protect your community from further exposure. We have heard Prime Minister Abe say that Japan is seeing a second wave of infections. I worry that this may happen in California if we remove the sheltering restriction too soon.

Same as Toride-shi, we have ordered our citizens to stay in their homes unless performing essential health (including exercise, food, medical, etc.), economic, construction, or government tasks. Masks are now encouraged, which reminds us of our beloved Japan. Yuba City residents have many opportunities to leave their houses, but are choosing to stay home because they are concerned about infection. Many businesses will close permanently. Our economy will suffer for at least two years.

Mayor Harris and I have not written sooner because we are working many, long hours to assist in the response to COVID-19. I have been working all day and night to build a budget for our city council that includes all of the economic effects of the virus. It is difficult to know all of the short and long-term impacts on our local businesses. Yuba City's largest source of revenue is sales tax (7.25% on every commodity purchased, including prepared food and beverages) and I am estimating 15-20% declines with a \$2,000,000 revenue shortfall for our current fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Today, in the counties that includes Yuba City and Marysville, there have been 40 cases out of 1,030 test results. We are encouraged that our infection rate per test has fallen below 4% for the first time in a few weeks and that we have zero citizens currently hospitalized due to the infection. While three, elderly people's deaths have been virus-related, we have not had a death in many days. You can follow our daily virus response and statistics here: <https://www.suttercounty.org/doc/government/depts/cao/em/coronavirus>.

Thank you for thinking about your friends in Yuba City and know that you and the citizens of Toride-shi are forever in our thoughts, as well. I hear from my family's former homestay hosts every week and they seem to feel happy and safe, which I believe is because of your strong leadership and your hard work and that of the city employees. I am excited to see my Japanese friends, old and new, in Yuba City and in Torde-shi, soon.

Sincerely,

Spencer Morrison

Spencer Morrison
Finance Director/City Treasurer